

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, “REFUGEE CASE PROCESSING”

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, 100 BACKGROUND

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, 101 U.S. POLICY PERSPECTIVES

(TL:VISA-142; 4-22-96)

Third country resettlement is the least desirable solution for the majority of refugees. Most of the world's refugees will either voluntarily repatriate to their country of nationality or will be able to resettle in place. When resettlement outside of the region is necessary, the United States is only one of many resettlement countries. National policy is premised on the concept that resettlement in the United States will generally be most desirable for persons in imminent danger and/or who have family in or other ties to this country.

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, 102 REFUGEE ADMISSIONS LEVELS

(TL:VISA-142; 4-22-96)

Refugee admissions levels are set annually by the President in consultation with the Congress. Posts should refer to the guidelines for processing refugee applications, promulgated at the beginning of each fiscal year and transmitted to posts by cable, for detailed information on the numbers of refugees that may be admitted to the United States, the nationalities or groups that may be considered for admission, and other information.

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, 103 UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

(TL:VISA-142; 4-22-96)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has primary international responsibility for assistance to and protection of refugees. As a matter of course, posts should refer refugees to UNHCR. Where UNHCR is not present in a country, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) assumes responsibility for refugee issues.

9 FAM PART IV Appendix O, 104 JOINT VOLUNTARY AGENCY (JVA OR VOLAG)

(TL:VISA-142; 4-22-96)

At posts where there are substantial numbers of refugees, refugee pro-cessing as outlined in this appendix is often done by a voluntary agency (VOLAG), sometimes known as a Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA). The VOLAG has a cooperative agreement with the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) to provide certain services related to refugee processing that are occasionally performed at smaller posts by personnel in the consular section.